



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

December 29, 2004

# News Release

## **JURY FINDS DICKINSON CHILD PREDATOR GUILTY OF SEXUALLY EXPLOITING CHILDREN**

BISMARCK, N.D.—As a result of an investigation conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), a jury found 31-year-old Todd C. Zastoupil of Dickinson guilty Dec. 16 of the sexual exploitation of minors and of possession of child pornography.

A videotape that Zastoupil, already a registered sex offender from a previous Stark County sex offense conviction, took of himself sexually abusing two children under the age of 10 was discovered in his home in September.

After law enforcement officers were notified about the tape, they were given permission to search the home and found additional videotapes and photographs containing child pornography.

“Targeting people like Zastoupil is a top priority for us,” said Resident Agent-in-Charge John Balkovatz of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Minot. “We will not stand by as they prey on children in our communities.”

ICE agents and Dickinson Police Department officers investigated the case with assistance from the Stark County State’s Attorney’s Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Clare Hochhalter and Lynn Jordheim. Sentencing is pending.

Zastoupil’s arrest and prosecution is part of Operation Predator, a nationwide ICE initiative designed to protect children from sexual predators, including those who travel overseas for sex with minors, Internet child pornographers, criminal alien sex offenders, and child sex traffickers. Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested 14 alleged sexual predators in North Dakota. Nationwide, ICE agents have arrested more than 4,500 sexual predators.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.*